



DNA Backlog Clearance Project

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Focus of update:

This newsletter is designed to provide regular updates pertaining to the DNA Backlog Clearance Project. The project will continue until all testing is complete, reports issued by the external vendors, technical reviews finalized, and investigative follow up conducted. For more information please visit the following link:

[Special Mayor's Report to Council](#)

Outsource Update: Progress by the Numbers

Cases Outsourced	Reports Complete	Technical Reviews in progress	Technical Reviews complete
9,419	4,551	1,237	3,314

No Investigative Benefit:

Category*	Number
Negative Screening	1,339
No DNA Result	61
No DNA found foreign to complainant	542
Excessive number of contributors	63
Insufficient data for CODIS entry	184
Sample type not CODIS eligible	76
Total to Date	2,265

Possible Investigative Benefit:

Category	Number
CODIS entries to date	1,049**

* For category definitions refer to previous newsletter.

**These cases represent those where a profile was developed meeting CODIS guidelines and a CODIS entry has been completed.

Investigative Follow-Up

An investigative team, consisting of 3 lieutenants, 8 sergeants and 33 officers, within the Special Crimes and Juvenile Divisions, has been formed to conduct follow-up investigations pertaining to the DNA Clearance Project and new sexual assault cases. The investigative team has worked diligently with internal and external partners to improve all aspects of follow-up investigations related to sexual assaults in Houston. In the coming months more detailed information regarding the number of cases assigned and cleared will be shared as well as some of the innovative techniques the Houston Police Department is utilizing to focus on a more holistic victim-centered approach to sexual assault investigations. Some investigations will require extensive follow-up while others wherein DNA testing yielded no investigative benefit will require less time to address. Metrics related to case dispositions will be shared as the team works through each follow-up investigation.

NIJ Sexual Assault Action Research Project

The NIJ Sexual Assault Action Research Project is continuing to progress and NIJ anticipates publishing research findings in the coming year. The Houston research team meets monthly to discuss items related to sexual assault investigations. One of the areas that the team is focusing efforts on is victim notification protocol. The Houston research team plans to release an innovative model for victim notification that could be adopted by other jurisdictions handling similar issues. Additionally, the Houston Police Department has developed internal modifications to move toward a victim-centered investigative approach. The NIJ research team anticipates using some of the innovative approaches implemented in Houston to create a "best practices" model for other agencies to follow. For more information visit NIJ at the following link and refer to prior newsletters for background information regarding this NIJ Action Research Grant.

[NIJ Action Research Project](#)